GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3382
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
SURVEY ON FOREST COVER
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a remote sensing agency to monitor forest cover in the country annually;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the latest survey has shown an increase in the extent of forest cover in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve degraded forest areas in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) to (d) Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 using satellite imageries.As per latest State of Forest Report, 1999, forest cover in the country has shown an increase of 3896 sq.km in the period from 1996 to 1998. State-wise details of change in forest cover are given in Annexure.

(e) Various steps taken to improve degraded forest areas in the country are:

i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments/UT Administrationsfrom their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

iii) Guidelines have been issued to all States/UTs to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes.

v) A net work of protected areas has been established.

vi) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through increased investments i n conservation and development of forest resources.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN PARA (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3382 FOR 15.04.20
REGARDING SURVEY OF FOREST COVER

State	Forest Cover as per 1997 Assessment (Sq. Km.)	Forest Cover as per 1999 Assessment (Sq. Km.)	Change (Sq. Km.)
Andhra Pradesh	43,290	44,229	+939
Arunachal Pra	68,602	68,847	+245
Assam	23,824	23,688	-136
Bihar	26,524	26,474	-50
Delhi	26	88	+62
Goa	1,252	1,251	-1
Gujarat	12,578	12,965	+387
Haryana	604	964	+360
Himachal Pra	12,521	13,082	+561
Jammu & Kashmir	20,440	20,441	+1

Karnataka	32,403	32,467	+64
Kerala	10,334	10,323	-11
Madhya Pradesh	131,195	131,830	+635
Maharashtra	46,143	46,672	+529
Manipur	17,418	17,384	-34
Meghalaya	15,657	15,633	-24
Mizoram	18,775	18,338	-437
Nagaland	14,221	14,164	-57
Orissa	46,941	47,033	+92
Punjab	1,387	1,412	+25
Rajasthan	13,353	13,871	+518
Sikkim	3,129	3,118	-11
Tamil Nadu	17,064	17,078	+14
Tripura	5,546	5,745	+199
Uttar Pradesh	33,994	34,016	+22
West Bengal	8,349	8,362	+13
A&N Islands	7,613	7,606	-7
Chandigarh	7	7	0
D& N Haveli	204	202	-2
Daman & Diu	3	3	0
Lakshdweep+	-	-	-
Pondicherry+	-	-	-
Total			+3,896

+ No discernible forest cover.